

Narrative for the Homeless Enumeration Report for FY 2013

Jurisdiction's Name: Frederick (city) and Frederick County, Maryland

Description of Homeless Services:

Frederick County, Maryland is fortunate to have a wide-range of governmental, private non-profit, and faith-based organizations that together have established an almost seamless service delivery system targeted to addressing the needs of homeless individuals and families, but major gaps in homeless services include year-round emergency shelter for single adults (currently an existing emergency shelter for adults is only open during the winter season); emergency shelter for families (currently sheltered through motel placements or directly into transitional housing); and more diverse permanent supportive housing options for both individuals and families. Major providers of homeless services include the Frederick Community Action Agency, Advocates for Homeless Families, Heartly House, Frederick Rescue Mission, Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs, Hope Alive, Mental Health Management Agency of Frederick County, and the Frederick County Department of Social Services - all of these agencies are active members of the Frederick County Coalition for the Homeless.

Established in 1983, the Frederick County Coalition for the Homeless (FCCH) is the oldest local coalition working to end homelessness in Maryland. The FCCH is a coalition comprised of governmental and non-profit human service and community development organizations, religious institutions, for-profit businesses such as banks, local government officials, interested citizens, and homeless and formerly homeless persons. The FCCH meets monthly in order to coordinate the planning of local homeless services, discuss local needs and approve new projects, and advocate for additional resources to address homelessness.

Year-Round and Winter Inventory of Beds				
	Beds for Individuals	Beds/Units for Persons in Families	All Year- Round Beds	Winter Beds
Hypothermia/Overflow/Other (Additional winter Capacity)	65	0/0		65
Emergency Shelter Beds	22	35/11	57	0
Transitional Housing Beds	48	116/38	164	0
TOTALS	135 beds	151 beds 49 units	221 beds	65 beds

Homeless Point-In-Time Results:

The most recent Point-in-Time Survey for both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations was conducted on January 30, 2013. Survey tools were distributed and

thoroughly discussed at a regular monthly meeting of the Frederick County Coalition for the Homeless (FCCH). All emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and motel placement providers were instructed on how to use the survey instrument and when to conduct the Point-in-Time Survey. Whenever possible, surveys were to be completed directly by the people that were homeless; however, shelter staff could utilize administrative or HMIS data if a person was unable to directly complete the survey. A total of 275 homeless persons (comprised of 210 adults and 65 children) completed the point-in-time survey; the largest household type was 171 single-individuals.

The Point-in-Time Survey instrument contains specific questions regarding all HUD-defined homeless subpopulations (e.g., veteran, alcohol abuse problem, drug abuse problem) and contains specific questions about the length of time that a respondent has been homeless. With regard to disabling conditions, the following data was reported: 44 respondents reported a substance abuse problem/addiction; 38 respondents reported chronic health problems; 35 respondents reported having physical disabilities; 23 respondents reported severe mental health problems; 18 respondents reported substance abuse problems and co-occurring mental health problems; 33 respondents (including children) reported that they are survivors of current domestic violence; 13 respondents reported that they are veterans; 0 respondents reported a diagnosis of HIV or AIDS, and a total of 58 respondents (all single individuals) reported being “chronically homeless”.

HOMELESS COUNT BY CATEGORY				
Category	2013	2012	2011	% Change 2011 to 2013
Total Number Counted	275	285	280	-1.7%
Total Number of Singles Individuals	171	169	169	1.1%
Total Number of Families	38	39	37	2.7%
Total of Persons in Families	104	116	111	-6.3%
Total Adults in Families	39	42	39	0%
Total Children in Families	65	74	72	-9.7%

EMPLOYMENT	
Category	Total Number Employed
Total Number of Single Individuals	52
Total Number of Adults in Families	20

SUBPOPULATION DATA			
Subpopulations	Single Individuals	Persons in Families	Total
Chronic Substance Abuser	44	0	44
Severe Mental Illness	23	0	23
Dually Diagnosed	16	2	18
U.S. Veteran	10	3	13
Living with HIV/AIDS	0	0	0
Domestic Violence Survivor (including children) ¹	5	28	33
Physical Disability	34	1	35
Chronic Health Problem	37	1	38
Limited English	1	0	1
Chronically Homeless	58	0	58

According to the 2013 Point-In-Time data, homelessness in Frederick County decreased slightly by a total of 5 persons from the 2011 PIT count of 280 persons. It is important to keep in mind that the Point-in-Time survey is a “one-day snapshot” of homelessness and may not be reflective of all trends experienced in a local jurisdiction.

Jurisdictional Movement

Jurisdictional movement or the movement of people that are homeless from one area to another is another interesting statistic to evaluate. Many people tend to believe that all homeless populations are highly transient and some homeless service providers have been criticized for “attracting” people that are homeless from other states or counties. However, 2013 PIT data indicates that the homeless population surveyed in Frederick County is nominally transient. When asked if the person (or family) had received shelter in another jurisdiction, only 8 out of 171 single individuals (or 4.6%) reported that they had received shelter in another jurisdiction (i.e., anywhere other than Frederick County, Maryland). The percentage of homeless families that had received shelter in another jurisdiction dropped to 0 persons out of 104 family members. The statistics clearly indicate that homeless populations, at least in Frederick County, are less transient than previously thought.

Permanent and Permanent Supportive Housing Placements:

The availability of affordable or subsidized permanent housing continues to be a major problem in Frederick County. Subsidized permanent housing is provided by the Housing Authority of the City of Frederick (public housing and Housing Choice Vouchers), Frederick County Department of Housing and Community Development (Housing Choice Vouchers), Frederick Community Action Agency (Project-Based Section 8), Interfaith Housing Development Partnership, and by private landlords under contract

¹ This figure includes adults and children that reported a current episode of domestic violence.

with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Housing Authority of the City of Frederick currently completing an ambitious \$16,000,000 HOPE VI project that is committed to providing one-for-one replacement housing for each public housing unit that was demolished for redevelopment. At present, the Housing Authority of the City of Frederick is developing market-rate and homeownership units in order to establish “mixed-income” communities on large sites that were once exclusively occupied by public housing. The following table depicts the number of homeless persons and households that accessed permanent housing during fiscal year 2012.

PERMANENT HOUSING PLACEMENTS OF HOMELESS PERSONS FISCAL YEAR 2012		
Agency/Program	Households	Persons
Frederick Rescue Mission	3	3
Hope Alive	3	10
Heartly House (Transitional Only)	10	16
Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs (Exodus Project)	7	7
Advocates for Homeless Families	9	23
Frederick Community Action Agency	6	19
Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs (Rapid Re-Housing)	33	78
TOTALS	71	156

The Frederick County Government has enacted a Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (MPDU) ordinance, but the handful of housing units developed under the ordinance are targeted for homeownership and typically remain out-of-reach for homeless families. The City of Frederick also enacted its own version of an MPDU ordinance and recently amended the ordinance to add a “payment-in-lieu” option, which stands to fund a wide-range of affordable housing opportunities.

Special needs housing providers operating in Frederick County include the Way Station, Family Services Foundation, Community Living, and the Frederick Community Action Agency. The Maryland Mental Hygiene Administration administers 20 HUD Shelter Plus Care vouchers in Frederick County and the Frederick Community Action Agency administers 13 units/17 beds of HUD permanent supportive housing under a Housing First model for individuals who are disabled and chronically homeless. The following table provides additional data on formerly homeless persons now residing in permanent supportive housing through the Shelter Plus Care and Housing First Programs.

FORMERLY HOMELESS PERSONS NOW RESIDING IN PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING	
Persons served as single individuals	33
Persons served as members of a family (adults and children)	8
Chronic Substance Abuser (CSA)	0
Severe Mental Illness (SMI)	12
Dually Diagnosed (CSA & SMI)	14
Chronic Health Problem	8
Living With HIV/AIDS	0
Physical Disability	10
Domestic Violence Survivor	2
Limited English	1
U.S. Veterans	2

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